

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting  
Held Thursday 30 March 2017  
7:00 pm – Shevington Library**

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (*Chair*), Cllrs J Ball, C Miles, W McKnight, K Shaw, C Horridge and J Fletcher.  
Eight members of the public.

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

**528 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J Calderbank

**529 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr C Miles w.r.t. Item 552 – both applications (*personal & prejudicial*)  
Cllr I Whiteley w.r.t. Item 552 – Save Our Federation Schools (*personal*)  
Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item 556 (*personal*)

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**530 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

None

*Item 532 was taken before Item 531.*

*Cllr K Shaw joined the meeting.*

**531 Tree Adjacent to No.35 Shevington Lane**

The owners of No.35 Shevington Lane wished to draw the Council's attention to the damage being caused to the roof of their property by a tree in Memorial Park. The tree in question was adjacent to their property and its branches were overhanging the roof and, it was thought, propagating the growth of moss. The owners had made arrangements for the moss to be professionally removed, for the gutters to be cleaned and for the debris created in their garden by the trees to be removed. This was happening early the following week.

The Council discussed the issues with the residents. The Clerk would consult the Tress & Woodlands Officer about the best way forward, making it clear to him that the Council did not wish any further distress to be caused by the tree. The cost of the work ordered by the owners of the property was discussed 'in camera' at the end of the meeting.

### **532 Memorial Request**

The Council had received a request from the grand-daughter of a late resident of the Parish seeking permission to place a bench, plaque or tree in his memory in Memorial Park. The daughters of the resident were present at the meeting and discussed the options with the Council. Their preferred option was a bench bearing a memorial plaque, which would be funded by the family.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

**Resolved:** The Council gave their permission for a bench to be installed in the park at an agreed location.

The Clerk would make arrangements to meet with the late resident's family to agree a location.

### **533 District Councillors' Reports**

There was no report.

### **534 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (23 February 2017)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 23 February 2017, were approved as a true and correct record.

A map of the locations of the Parish Council's bins had been circulated. A request had been made for a map of the locations of Wigan Council's bins in the Parish to be forwarded to the Clerk.

### **535 Chairman's Report**

The Chair reported that she had visited Mr B King on his return home from the hospital following his recent illness. He was recovering slowly, but hoped to be at the Committee meeting the following week.

### **536 Reports from Councillors**

#### **New Bin for the Entrance to the Footpath at the Junction of High Park with Longbrook**

In reply to a question from a member about progress with the introduction of a bin at the entrance to the footpath at the junction of High Park with Longbrook, the Clerk reported that this was now with the District Councillors.

#### **Daffodils in Grass Verges**

A member reported that one third of the daffodils planted along the grass verges in Miles Lane between Broadriding Road and the Post Office had been blind this year because they had been cut too early the previous year.

### **Potholes in Shevington Surgery Car Park**

Following a question from another member, Cllr C Miles reported that the subject of the potholes in the Surgery car park had not been discussed by the Patient Participation Group during their recent meeting.

### **Bins Along the Canal Bank**

A member reported that, during a recent walk, he had observed that there were no bins along the canal bank between the one provided by the Parish Council at the swing bridge and the one on the bridge over the River Douglas at Gathurst. The Clerk advised that this matter was already in hand.

### **Play Area at Herons Wharf**

It was observed that Morris Homes had not yet started work on the play area at Herons Wharf, despite the fact that the provision of one had been one of the conditions attached to their planning permission. An enquiry would be raised with the relevant Planning Officer.

### **On Pavement Parking**

On pavement parking by residents continued to be an issue. It was suggested that bollards could be introduced along the length of Miles Lane to prevent it, as it would in future create obstructions for parents walking children to Shevington Vale Community Primary School. Cllr Miles agreed to take this to the School Transition Group to raise, as the Education Department had pledged that they would make the school route safe.

### **'Shared Lives'**

A member brought Wigan Council's 'Shared Lives' service to the attention of the Council and asked if it's profile could be raised, as volunteers were needed to facilitate it. It would be publicised in the next edition of the newsletter.

## **537 Reports from Representatives**

### **Shevington & District Community Association**

It was reported that Shevington Sharks 'Fun Day' was discussed at the recent meeting.

### **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

There was no report.

### **Shevington Youth Club**

The Youth Club were hoping to have a Variety Show on 16 December. A flyer with information was circulated – almost all items were welcome.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

There was no report.

### **'in Bloom' Groups**

Appley Bridge in Bloom would be entering in two categories: 'Small Neighbourhood' and 'Edible Appley Bridge'. The fruit trees for the latter were to be planted the following Monday morning. Hopefully, the raised beds will be erected in May.

### **Standards Committee**

The date of the last meeting had been moved to 21 March and the time was brought forward to 5pm, which meant that Cllr J Fletcher had not been able to attend. The two main agenda items had been meant for the closed session, so Cllr Fletcher

would not have been able to report on it anyway. It was anticipated that in the future the Standards Committee would be merging with the Audit Committee, but the make-up of the joint Committee had not yet been finalised.

#### **Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group**

Shevington Surgery were trying to set up a Diabetic Support Group – there were at least 600 diabetic patients on the register.

New members were joining the Dementia Carers Group.

Shevington Surgery had been nominated as being the top surgery in the Wigan area to be recommended by its patients to a friend.

#### **Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs**

The report was received under Item 539.

#### **Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods**

There was no report, but a member observed that the recent edition of Borough Life had contained a lot of ideas and advice with respect woodland.

#### **Shevington Community School Transition Group**

The Shevington Federation wished to create an artwork in each of the surviving schools which would depict Shevington Community School. Fundraising would include a Tom Jones Tribute Evening to be held at Gathurst Golf Club on 22 April.

### **538 DRAFT Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (2 March 2017)**

The draft minutes of the meetings of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees on 2 March 2017 were received.

### **539 Vicarage Lane Sports Leases Update**

The representative of the sports clubs updated the Council on developments with regard to the project:

- The lease had been completed, signed and registered with HM Land Registry, although Sport England's restriction on the title still had to be added.
- Most of the funding was in place. There was still a small amount to be raised towards the drainage of the middle pitch.
- The whole area would be renovated and brought up to DW standard.
- The clubs had submitted an application to the LA for the discharge of planning consent conditions 3 and 5.
- The design for the car park had been sent to the Clerk and would be presented to the Policy & General Purposes Committee for approval the following week.
- The car park would create a natural reservoir which would drain into the ditch, which would be deeper than it was at present.
- Eventually surface water would be drained via pipes and percolate towards the river. The end of the pipe that went under Vicarage Lane had been found. Its condition could only be established once the work on the drainage had started – it was hoped that this would be in May.

The Council's responsibilities in relation to the site would be discussed by the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week.

## **540 Rugby Festival**

Shevington Sharks ARLFC were proposing to hold a Rugby Festival / Fun Day at Shevington Recreation Ground on Saturday, 3 June to raise funds towards the Vicarage Lane Fields project and were seeking permission to use the Parish Council car park in Gathurst Lane. This would involve closing the car park to the public. 'Park & Ride' arrangements had been made.

**Resolved:** The Council gave Shevington Sharks ARLFC permission to use the car park for the Rugby Festival / Fun Day on 3 June and agreed that it could be closed to the general public that day.

## **541 Allotments Development at Vicarage Lane**

It was reported that Shevington Gardening Club now had appropriate insurance in place.

**Resolved:** The Council gave Shevington Gardening Club permission to start work on the development of the allotments.

The flood risk assessment for the site had included the allotments. The Planning Department had agreed to assist with the marking out of the area relating to the allotments.

## **542 Christmas Tree Lights**

The purchase of bespoke stars for the Christmas trees was discussed.

**Resolved:** A bespoke star would be ordered Blachere Illuminations for the Christmas tree at Memorial Park at a cost of £453.

## **543 Road Behind the Parade of Shops**

Three options for the repair of the road behind the parade of shops were considered and the best way forward was discussed.

**Resolved:** As the road was the joint property of the shop owners, the Council would act as a facilitator. The Clerk would apportion the road amongst the shops and draft a letter to their owners / tenants, inviting them to a meeting. Cllr J Ball was delegated to liaise with the owners / tenants.

## **544 Shevington in Bloom Watering**

A request from Shevington in Bloom that the Council should pay for the weekly watering of flower beds and planters belonging to the group in the centre of Shevington was considered.

**Resolved:** The above request was refused.

The Clerk was asked to suggest to the group that they should consider investing in an aqua roll and using the water supplies of facilities in the vicinity of the flower beds and planters in question.

*Cllr J Fletcher withdrew from the meeting.*

#### **545 Shevington in Bloom Storage Facility**

Consideration was given to the introduction of a shed to the Forest Fold site to be used by Shevington in Bloom for the storage of their equipment, its design and its location.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed that Shevington in Bloom could install a shed for storage behind the toilet block at Forest Fold and approved the size and design of the shed, as submitted by Shevington in Bloom.

The staging currently in place at that location was rotten and would be removed. Pieces of staging that were in good condition would be used by the caretaker to repair the damage done to the palisade fencing at the raised bed allotment area by Storm Doris.

*Cllr J Fletcher re-joined the meeting.*

#### **546 Low Level Three Tier Planter Maintenance**

**Resolved:** The maintenance of the low level three tier planter by Moss Bank Nurseries over the Summer season at a cost of £200 was approved.

#### **547 WW1 Display Case**

**Resolved:** The Council approved the purchase of a display case with clear glass shelving from David Albrow at a cost of £975.

The display case would house the Council's WW1 memorabilia and would be housed in Shevington Library.

#### **548 Useful Details of Funding Sources**

Information supplied by Dist Cllr P Collins about useful funding sources was noted.

#### **549 LCTP / LALC**

**(a) LCTP**

Information about a Planning workshop to be provided in April by LCTP was noted.

**(b) LALC Spring Conference**

The Council noted information circulated about LALC's Spring Conference.

**(c) LALC March Newsletter**

The March edition of LALC's newsletter was received.

## 550 Jo Cox Foundation

The contents of a letter from Brendan Cox, the husband of the Late Jo Cox MP, inviting local groups to take part in 'The Great Get Together' to mark the first anniversary of her murder, were noted. It would be displayed on the notice board and on the website, forwarded to the Community Association and included in the newsletter.

## 551 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. *See Appendix A.*

## 552 Financial Aid Application

*Cllr C Miles withdrew from the meeting.*

- **Shevington Methodist Church**  
The Clerk was asked to write to Shevington Methodist seeking further information. The application was for a s137 grant of £250, which the Council were willing to award, but they wished to know more about the specification for the repairs.

*Cllr C Miles re-joined the meeting and then withdrew again.*

- **Save Our Federation Schools**  
**Resolved:**
  - (a) The Council approved a s137 grant of £500 towards the costs of artwork to commemorate the closure of Shevington Community Primary School, subject to the application form being signed.
  - (b) £250 were vired from the General Reserve to the 'Financial Aid' cost centre.

*Cllr C Miles re-joined the meeting.*

## 553 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for February / March were received.  
*See Appendix B.*

**Resolved:** That the Accounts be approved and the cheques signed in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

## 554 Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that the application for the discharge of planning consent conditions 3 and 5 was listed on the LA's website, but no documents were displayed.

**555 Next Meetings:** 6 April (Policy & GP Committee); 27 April (Council)

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**Resolved:** That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

*The members of the public remaining left the meeting.*

### **556 Staff Pay Review**

**Resolved:** The Council approved a 60p per hour increase in the hourly rate of pay of the Cover Assistant.

### **Item 531** *(continued)*

The issues were discussed.

**Resolved:** The Clerk would consult the Trees & Woodlands Officer about the best way forward.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:04 pm.

**Chairman**